Transfer for ST land

†1460. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transfer of ST land to non-scheduled tribe people has been banned in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to take any action to implement these provisions more strictly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is going to implement any stringent law to return schedule tribes' land to them which they lost for any reason and the land is with non tribal people; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Governors in respect of States having Fifth Scheduled Areas therein can make regulations to prohibit or restrict the transfer of land by or among members of the Scheduled Tribes in such area after adopting the procedure prescribed in the Fifth Scheduled to the Constitution of India.

The States Governments have in general accepted the policy of prohibiting of transfer of land from tribals to non-tribals and restoration of alienated tribal lands to them and especially the States with large tribal population have since enacted laws for this purpose.

Since "Land" and its management fall under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List-II (State List) of the Seventh Scheduled to the Constitution of India, the initiative have essentially to come from the State Governments. At the Central Government, the Ministry of Rural Development, has been playing an advisory and coordinatory role in the field of land reforms.

Decline in poverty among tribals

1461. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether decline in poverty among tribal population has been considerably slower than for other sections; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The estimates of poverty, at all India level, for 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs), 'Scheduled Castes' (SCs) and 'All' Population for the year 1993-94 and 2004-05 are given in statement (*See* below). The data shows that the decrease in population of STs below poverty line in rural areas has been slower over the period as compared to SCs and for 'All' Population whereas decline in poverty among urban population of STs has been faster than 'All' population. Further, higher poverty ratios are observed among SCs in urban areas as compared to STs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.